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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **U.S. Embassy Statement on Court Decision on Convictions of April 2 Protesters October 4, 2011**

The United States regrets the October 3 decision of the Sabail District Court to convict Arif Hajili, Tural Abbasli, Mahammad Majidli, and Fuad Gahramanli on charges of conspiracy to violate public order for planning and organizing anti-government protests that took place on April 2, 2011. The United States further regrets decisions by the same court on August 25 to convict Sahib Karimov, Babek Hasanov, Zulfuqar Eyvazli, Arif Alishli, Elshan Hasanov, and Elnur Israfilov on similar charges.

The United States recalls the Government of Azerbaijan's obligations under its Constitution and international commitments to respect the rights of all its citizens to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. Accordingly, the United States calls upon Azerbaijan's judicial authorities to ensure any appeals of these convictions are reviewed in accordance with Azerbaijan's constitutional and international commitments, which exist to help all Azerbaijanis deepen their country's democratic culture, processes, and institutions.

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